

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 188

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Gunnery Sergeant Terry Elliott, United States Marine Corps.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans have continued this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the Armed Forces, including the United States Marine Corps; sadly, many of these honored defenders of our nation and its liberties have fallen in battle throughout our country's history; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2007, Gunnery Sergeant Terry Elliott, United States Marine Corps, was killed in the line of duty in the Al Anbar province of Iraq; and

WHEREAS, a fourteen-year veteran of the Marine Corps, Gunnery Sergeant Elliott was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii; he had been serving in Iraq for more than a year; and

WHEREAS, Gunnery Sergeant Elliott joined the United States Marine Corps after graduating from high school in Middleton; during his time in the Marines, he also served in Afghanistan and Pakistan; and

WHEREAS, heroism was nothing new to this beloved husband, father, son, brother, and friend; in March of 1992, Former County Mayor Don Clifft publicly honored Gunnery Sergeant Elliott for the "Lifesaving, Heroic Actions" he took on October 10, 1991, when he rescued several victims of an automobile accident; and

WHEREAS, Terry Elliott is survived by his parents, Jo and Lee Elliott; his wife, Loretta; and their son, Preston; and

WHEREAS, Gunnery Sergeant Elliott served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; as a member of the United States Marine Corps, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, Terry Elliott's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of his family, his fellow soldiers, and his country, exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are proud to join with the United States Marine Corps and the citizens of the State of Tennessee and the United States of America in honoring the memory of a fallen son; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor the memory of Gunnery Sergeant Terry Elliott of Middleton for his heroic sacrifice of his life as a member of the United States Marine Corps and express to his family our sorrow for their loss and our gratitude for his commitment to the cause of freedom.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.